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EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Germany and Italy.

From the Tribune.

It is a singular illustration of the moral character of modern diplomacy that each of the three great powers which are now in Europe on the brink of war officially declares that she is arming only for defense, having no intention whatever to make an aggressive movement, and that, nevertheless, all Europe continues to believe war certain and inevitable.

One of the first movements on the organization of Congress was to appoint a revolutionary committee, a Central Directory, which had no bid defiance to public sentiment. This committee, this despotic cabal of revolutionists, have labored, not to see how the country could be reconstructed, but to see how long they could postpone the moment when they would be forced to face the people.

The responsibility of applying the match to the immense amount of combustible material which for many years has been accumulated in Europe must devolve upon Italy. Austria, however much provoked, will shrink from being the first to draw the sword, for she knows how vast interests are at stake and how fatal a blow an unsuccessful war might be to her.

It is Italy, therefore, which must decide the question whether Europe shall have war or peace. And from Italy we only hear one voice, and that voice is for war. The Government, the Parliament, the people, all believe that the moment when Venice can be liberated and the union of Italy can be consummated has at length come, and that if it is allowed to pass now, many years will elapse before an equally favorable juncture of circumstances will return.

No one can doubt the desire of the Italian Government to place itself at the head of this popular movement, but it has been compelled to yield so far to the pressure which diplomatic influence has brought to bear upon it, as to engage, with great hesitation and reluctance, not to attack Austria. This decision is clearly intended to retard somewhat the opening of war, but by no means to prevent it.

The French Government has, at length, been prevailed upon to express somewhat more fully its present position relative to the threatened war. The speech of Minister Rouher is more emphatic in its expression of sympathy for Italy, and makes Italy responsible for the consequences which a war begun by her may involve; it assures Europe in stronger terms than former declarations of the determination of France to remain neutral; but, finally, it winds up with a reservation for France "liberty of action," which more than neutralizes all the other promises.

Mr. Stanton's Position. The newspapers are raising a great hue and cry over Mr. Stanton's declaration, made in Cabinet meeting, that he is opposed to the Congressional Committee's plan of reconstruction, and in favor of the general principles held on this subject by the President.

Those familiar with the political history of the past three or four years are well aware that, from its very inception during Mr. Lincoln's administration, Mr. Stanton favored what is now styled the President's plan of restoring the States lately in rebellion to their former relations to the Federal Government.

Indeed, Mr. Stanton and Mr. Stanton together were, unless we are misinformed, the first who suggested to President Lincoln the appointment of Andrew Johnson as Military or Provisional Governor of Tennessee, for the express purpose of taking the initial step towards carrying out this policy of restoration. It was even then foreseen that whenever the war should end some plan must be adopted for setting in motion the wheels of government in States where they had been arrested by the Rebellion, and after a full and thorough examination it was decided that the agency of Provisional Governors was the best that could be devised.

President Johnson, the Cabinet, and Congress. The daily developments at the National Capitol not only conclusively prove the utter demoralization of the present Congress, but also that the radicals are becoming more bitter and severe to their denunciations of the Executive. This fact has become so apparent that the public have become disgusted with their silly actions, have lost all interest in the proceedings of Congress, and are now only waiting for an opportunity to record their verdict at the polls.

In a manner that will be decisive. All members with that unanimity the people appear to have restored the policy of the President during the political campaign last year.

The feeling was so universal in all the Northern States that the conventions of both parties found it necessary to pass strong resolutions endorsing Mr. Johnson's Administration, as their only hope of success at the polls. The very men who are now assailing him the loudest in Congress were foremost in their laudations when they were before the people for voters. No sooner did they take their seats in Congress than they commenced a conspiracy to defeat the measures of the Administration which they pledged themselves to support.

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States, and who has given his best years to the study of legal and constitutional questions, was a devoted adherent of the State Rights theory, the reasons in support of it must, though sophistical, be specious enough to extenuate the error of those whom Chief Justice Chase may be called to try. This topic could be handled with great effect before a Southern jury. If the Chief Justice himself was for years a State Rights man; if, when Governor of Ohio, he was ready and eager to dare a conflict with the general Government in opposition to Federal law, and in resistance to Federal officers, no theory consistent with a upright citizen could make the same thing a heinous crime in others. He may, indeed, have been in error, and have recanted; but his example proves that the error is such as an honest man may entertain, and such as a public officer, thinking himself loyal, may act upon.

The trial of Mr. Davis by a judge of Mr. Chase's antecedents will have no great tendency either to explode the State Rights theory, or to render armed opposition to the Federal Government odious. The personal obstacle to Chief Justice Chase's presiding in the treason trial cannot be more fully expressed than in the language of Scripture:— "Therefore thou art inexcusable, man that judgest; for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things." To perceive how closely this applies to the Chief Justice, as related to the Davis trial, it is only necessary to attend to the evidence of his former adherence to the Southern doctrine.

The Cincinnati Commercial says, in the article we copy, that Mr. Chase advised President Lincoln to let the slave States, "rather than resort to armed coercion, which was in violation of the State Rights theory he had preached all his life, from the case of Jones vs. Van Zandt, to the pretended fugitive cases, and the celebrated Oberlin fugitive slave rescue case, and the Rushell, ex parte Langston, in 1859, reported in Ninth Ohio State Reports, when, as Governor of Ohio, through the Attorney-General, C. P. Wolf, he presented a writ of habeas corpus to release prisoners, confined in the State Prison, and Fugitive Slave law, from the Cleveland jail, and openly declared that he would sustain by force the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, even if it resulted in a collision with the general Government—the full-blown Calhoun doctrine of nullification."

The reader who will consult the article will find in this statement supported by conclusive documentary proofs. While the fugitive cases were pending, Governor Chase made a speech in Cleveland, in which he used this language:—"I will say, what I have frequently said before, that as long as the State of Ohio remains a sovereign State, and so long as I am Chief Executive, the process of her courts shall be executed. The process of the United States courts must not be shirked or resisted, but so long as I represent the sovereignty of our State, I will see that the process of our State courts shall not be interfered with, but shall be fully obeyed. When I am called upon to act, I will act. This was spoken to an excited meeting, at which inflammatory harangues were made by Giddings and others, advocating the tearing down of the prison walls and the forcible release of the prisoners. When Chief Justice Swan concurred with a majority of the court in pronouncing the Federal law constitutional, Governor Chase expressed his willingness to prevent his renunciation, and succeeded in dissuading him from the bench.

To the copious array of facts presented by the Cincinnati Commercial we will add a few contemporary specimens, taken chiefly from Mr. Chase's utterances in the United States Senate, which he was addressing in 1859, on the Sovereignty view. In February, 1855, there was introduced a bill for the protection of officers employed in the execution of the Federal laws. The necessity for the bill was explained, by its introduction, to the execution of the Fugitive Slave law; marshals and their assistants being, in many cases, subject to heavy damages by State laws. Senator Chase led the opposition to the bill. In his speech, he said:—"Sir, this is a bill for the overthrow of the State Rights. It is a bill to establish a great central, consolidated general Government."

"Sir, there was once a Senator from South Carolina on the floor of the Senate, who sought to perceive that the enactment of a fugitive slave act was utterly irreconcilable with that theory of State Rights which he held in common with South Carolina's greatest statesmen, professed to believe in the State and ingenuously to deny the inconsistency." After a long State Rights extract, Mr. Chase said:—"Sir, the Senator from South Carolina spoke in a spirit worthy of a South Carolina slaveholder and a defender of slavery. He would neither conceal his real opinion, nor ask for any advantage for his section or his class at the expense of a violated Constitution. Would that a like spirit had controlled other Senators who have spoken of State Rights, and of the progress State Rights doctrines." In 1850, in reply to Senator Butler, Mr. Chase said:—"I have certainly answered the Senator, very distinctly and candidly. I said that I knew of no remedy in this respect, that it is not to be aided by threats, etc. He has another point, and I will dignify his reply to Governor Chase's representative, we find him saying:—"I agree heartily with the State Rights doctrines which the Attorney-General with so much ability has advocated."

When, considering that Mr. Davis' defense against the charge of treason will probably rest on the very principle so boldly maintained by Mr. Chase, the Chief Justice's antecedents will greatly diminish the weight of any charge he may make to the jury against the principle. However clearly he may refute it, he will be very likely to convince the jury that if one man who held and acted on it is properly promoted to the highest judicial honor, another man for the same thing deserves nothing short of an infamous death on the gallows. The jury cannot render a verdict against the prisoner without, at the same time, convicting the judge.

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TO THE SOLDIERS OF PENNSYLVANIA. In obedience to authority vested in me by a resolution adopted by the Convention of Soldiers, held in this city on the 24th day of March, 1866, I do hereby request the honorably discharged soldiers of Pennsylvania to meet in their respective Legislative Districts and elect delegates, not exceeding five in number to represent their district in a Soldiers' Convention, to be held in the city of Philadelphia, on TUESDAY, the 19th of June next, at 10 o'clock.

THE FOLLOWING GENTLEMEN HAVE BEEN ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF COMMERCE, to serve for the ensuing year:— PRESIDENT, JOSEPH P. BROT. MANAGER, ALEX. H. CANTRELL. CLERK, CHARLES H. UMBRIGUS. TREASURER, JAMES A. WRIGHT. SECRETARIES, HOWARD BUCHANAN, CHARLES KNECHT, SENEA E. ALBONE, GEORGE W. JONES, JOHN H. McHENNER.

RIERSTADT'S LAST WORD—"STORM IN THE BOILER." The Board of Directors of the RIERSTADT & CO. have the honor to announce that the stock of the company, on the 1st of May, 1866, was sold at public auction at the office of the company, on CHESTNUT STREET, at 11 o'clock, by H. M. HUNNICKE, Treasurer.

OFFICE PORTAGE OIL AND MINING COMPANY, No. 1093 SOUTH BROAD STREET, Philadelphia. The proprietors of the shares who have neglected to pay the sum of fifty cents (50 CENTS) on the balance of the capital stock, daily from 11 A. M. to 12 M. on the 15th inst., will be called upon to pay the same on the 15th inst. at 11 o'clock, by H. M. HUNNICKE, Treasurer.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY. NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.—The Board of Directors have this day declared a dividend of FIVE PER CENT on the capital stock of the Company, payable on the 15th inst. at 11 o'clock, by H. M. HUNNICKE, Treasurer.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD COMPANY, 0200 No. 227 SOUTH FOURTH STREET. Notice is hereby given to the stockholders of this company, that the option of receiving their Dividend in stock or cash, under the resolution of the Board of Directors, will close on the 15th inst. at 11 o'clock, by H. M. HUNNICKE, Treasurer.

DINING-ROOM.—F. LAKEMEYER, CAPTAIN'S ADJUTANT, would respectfully inform the public generally that he has nothing to do with the piece of furniture in every respect for the accommodation of the public. He has a large and commodious Dining-Room in the second story. His BOTTLED WHISKY, ETC. ETC. SUTHERLAND BROTHERS, 111 N. 3rd St., Phila.

JUST PUBLISHED.—By the Physicians of the NEW YORK MUSEUM, FOUR LECTURES, entitled—PHILOSOPHY OF MARRIAGE. To be had free, for our stamps, by addressing Secretary, 175 N. 3rd St., New York.

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